

P. W. NORRIS, SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YELLOWSTONE
NATIONAL PARK.

MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING

*A communication from the Secretary of the Interior, relative to the pay of
P. W. Norris as superintendent of the Yellowstone National Park, from
April 18, 1877, to July 1, 1878.*

MARCH 1, 1882.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be
printed.

To the Senate and House of Representatives :

I submit herewith, for the consideration of Congress, a letter from the Secretary of the Interior, inclosing a petition of Mr. P. W. Norris, for compensation for services rendered and expenses incurred by him as superintendent of the Yellowstone National Park from the 18th of April, 1877, to the 1st of July, 1878.

CHESTER A. ARTHUR.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, *February 28th, 1882.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, February 24, 1882.

SIR: I have the honor to state that the act of Congress, approved March 1, 1872, setting apart a tract of land on the headwaters of the Yellowstone River as a National Park, placed the same under control of the Secretary of the Interior, who was authorized to make and publish regulations for its proper care and management. These regulations were to provide for the preservation from injury and spoliation all timber, mineral deposits, and natural curiosities within the park. It was also made the duty of the Secretary to provide against the wanton destruction of fish and game within the park, and for the removal of all trespassers.

The Secretary of the Interior, on the 18th of April, 1877, appointed Mr. P. W. Norris, of Michigan, superintendent of the park, with the following reservation as to pay, stated in the letter of appointment:

As Congress has not provided any appropriation to carry out the purposes of the act of March 1, 1872, relative to the park, you will understand that no obligation is incurred by this department in regard to payment for your services.

Mr. Norris acted as superintendent under this appointment until the 1st of July, 1878, when an appropriation made by an act approved June 20, 1878, to protect, preserve, and improve the park became available, and he was reappointed at a salary of \$1,500 a year.

I have the honor to inclose herewith a petition of Mr. Norris for compensation for services rendered, and for reimbursement of expenses incurred by him, as superintendent of the park, for the period prior to July 1, 1878. As Mr. Norris, during the period stated, performed faithful service for the government, in enabling the department to execute the law relative to the park, his claim, in my judgment, should be favorably acted upon by Congress.

Very respectfully,

A. BELL,
Acting Secretary.

The PRESIDENT.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 18, 1882.

To the honorable the SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR :

SIR: Your petitioner presents this memorial of facts in connection with his appointment as superintendent of the Yellowstone National Park by the honorable Secretary of the Interior, on the 18th day of April, 1877, as may be verified by the letter of appointment, marked A, and made a part of this memorial.

Your petitioner would respectfully state that he immediately entered upon the laborious and then dangerous duties of his office, and by the expenditure of his own private means proceeded to the said park and assumed exploration, care and protection thereof, which, under the name of the Yellowstone National Park, was set aside by an act of Congress, approved March 1, 1872, a copy of which act, as well as the rules and regulations of the honorable Secretary of the Interior for its management, are as follows :

AN ACT to set apart a certain tract of land lying near the headwaters of the Yellowstone River as a public park.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the tract of land in the Territories of Montana and Wyoming lying near the headwaters of the Yellowstone River, and described as follows, to wit: commencing at the junction of Gardiner's River with the Yellowstone River and running east to the meridian passing ten miles to the eastward of the most eastern point of Yellowstone Lake; thence south along the said meridian to the parallel of latitude passing ten miles south of the most southern point of Yellowstone Lake; thence west along said parallel to the meridian passing fifteen miles west of the most western point of Madison Lake; thence north along said meridian to the latitude of the junction of the Yellowstone and Gardiner's Rivers; thence east to the place of beginning, is hereby reserved and withdrawn from settlement, occupancy, or sale under the laws of the United States, and dedicated and set apart as a public park or pleasure ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people; and all persons who shall locate, settle upon, or occupy the same or any part thereof, except as hereinafter provided, shall be considered trespassers and removed therefrom.

SEC. 2. That said public park shall be under the exclusive control of the Secretary of the Interior, whose duty it shall be, as soon as practicable, to make and publish such rules and regulations as he may deem necessary or proper for the care and management of the same. Such regulations shall provide for the preservation from injury or spoliation of all timber, mineral deposits, natural curiosities, or wonders within said park, and their retention in their natural condition.

The Secretary may in his discretion grant leases for building purposes, for terms not exceeding ten years, of small parcels of ground, at such places in said park as shall require the erection of buildings for the accommodation of visitors; all of the proceeds of said leases, and all other revenues that may be derived from any source connected with said park, to be expended under his direction in the management of the same, and the construction of roads and bridle-paths therein. He shall provide against the wanton destruction of the fish and game found within said park and against their capture or destruction for the purposes of merchandise or profit. He shall also cause all persons trespassing on the same, after the passage of this act, to be removed therefrom, and generally shall be authorized to take all such measures as shall be necessary or proper to fully carry out the objects and purposes of this act.

Approved March 1, 1872.

(See Revised Statutes of the United States, page 453.)

RULES AND REGULATIONS.

1st. All hunting, fishing, or trapping within the limits of the park, except for purposes of recreation, or to supply food to visitors or actual residents, is strictly prohibited; and no sales of fish or game taken within the park shall be made outside of its boundaries.

2d. Persons residing within the park, or visiting it for any purpose whatever, are required under severe penalties to extinguish all fires which it may be necessary to make, before leaving them. No fires must be made within the park, except for necessary purposes.

3d. No timber must be cut in the park without a written permit from the superintendent.

4th. Breaking the siliceous or calcareous borders or deposits surrounding or in the vicinity of the springs or gysers for any purpose, and all removal, carrying away, or sale of specimens found within the park, without the consent of the superintendent, is strictly prohibited.

5th. No person will be permitted to reside permanently within the limit of the park without permission from the Department of the Interior, and any person now living within the park shall vacate the premises occupied by him within thirty days after having been served with a written notice so to do by the superintendent or his deputy, said notice to be served upon him in person or left at his place of residence.

Further: Your petitioner states that, in the line of his official duty, he had printed at considerable expense 500 copies, on cloth, "*Notices of warning*" to the public against careless use of fire, and acts of vandalism in the park, many of which were affixed to trees therein, and others distributed throughout the regions adjacent thereto, a copy of which is hereto attached, and reads as follows, viz:

NATIONAL PARK—NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that extreme caution is necessary and required in building and extinguishing fires within the National Park.

Vandalism in breaking, defacing, or carrying off cones or specimens from the gey-sers or hot springs or any section of the park is prohibited; also wanton destruction of game, fish, or fowl is in violation of law.

Law, public sentiment, the future attractiveness of Wonderland and the good fame of Montana alike forbid violation of this notice.

P. W. NORRIS,
Superintendent.

As above shown, at the time of your petitioner's appointment as superintendent, although no money for services or expenses was furnished or specifically promised, it was confidently expected, that through the recommendation of the department, an appropriation for such purposes would be made, at a then anticipated special session of Congress, which however was not called.

The honorable Secretary of the Interior made a request upon the War Department for transportation from Chicago to the Yellowstone National Park and return, but this request was never received by your petitioner, nor was the transportation or any portion thereof ever furnished him, but by the expenditure of his own means he proceeded by railroad to Bismarck, and thence by steamers to Fort Keogh, at the mouth of Tongue River. At this point your petitioner purchased saddle and pack animals and outfit, and then proceeded up the Yellowstone Valley, and through the "Gate of the Mountains" to the Mammoth Hot Springs in the National Park. Here finding his animals worn out your petitioner hired fresh animals and proceeded 80 miles to Fort Ellis and Bozeman to purchase supplies, and for consultation with the civil and military officers of those regions. From this point he returned to Bottlers, 40 miles below the park, where he hired an assistant and ascended the Yellowstone and Gardiner Rivers to the Mammoth Hot Springs, and thence throughout much of the central and northern portions of the park; with fresh animals and an additional assistant explored a new pass to the Stillwater and lower Yellowstone Rivers. Thence returning to the Mammoth Hot Springs and Bottlers Ranch, went down the Yellowstone toward the "Gate of the Mountains," until meeting Generals Sherman and Pope with a small escort, from which fact, as well as from a desire for further explorations in the park, he returned with them to Bottlers Ranch and hired fresh animals and outfit, and with two companions proceeded with General Sherman's party to "Tower Falls," 17 miles below the "Great Falls" of the Yellowstone. While your petitioner was proceeding alone, some miles in advance of the party, he met with a severe accident by the breaking of one of his stirrup straps, caused by a *bucking* horse; your petitioner was precipitated from a ledge of "Lava Rocks," receiving such severe injuries to his neck and spine as to render him unable to proceed or even to return, save, with extreme

difficulty and great suffering; he was thereby compelled to return to Mammoth Hot Springs and Bottlers for aid and care. He would state that as a result of this accident, occurring in the line of his duty, he has suffered ever since much bodily pain and inconvenience, and has been obliged to expend considerable sums of money for medical aid and assistance.

Unable to otherwise return east, he here assisted in the cost of construction and outfitting a small boat, in which with two comrades he descended the Yellowstone through the "Gate of the Mountains" and by the course of the river, fully 500 miles to a steamboat near the mouth of Tongue River, and then by steamboat to Fort Keogh. Here your petitioner met General Miles. After this long and tedious journey he imparted to the general, information regarding the regions that he had explored upon this and previous expeditions and of the different Indian tribes therein, which proved valuable in his subsequent successful operations against Chief Joseph and his hostile Nez Perces.

He descended the Yellowstone and Missouri Rivers to Bismarck, thence by rail to Duluth and by steamer to Detroit, and from thence to Washington City, where he reported in person to the honorable the Secretary of the Interior, who approved the recommendations of your petitioner and in his report to Congress makes the following recommendations, viz:

YELLOWSTONE PARK.

On the 18th of April, 1877, P. W. Norris, of Michigan, was appointed superintendent of the Yellowstone National Park. As no appropriation was made for the payment of a salary to the superintendent, the services rendered by Mr. Norris have been without pay.

By reference to his report it will be seen that he has visited the park and taken such measures toward the protection of its natural curiosities as were deemed practicable.

He recommends adequate appropriation for the following purposes:

First. Survey with distinct and durable evidence of the boundaries of the park.

Second. Construction of a plain but substantial wagon-road connecting the two entrances to the park, and the laying out of necessary bridle-paths.

Third. Salary sufficient to justify a capable and experienced superintendent, and at least one resident assistant, in devoting their time to the improvement and care of the park.

Other recommendations are made by the superintendent, looking to the improvement and protection of the park and its approaches.

Under the act of March 1, 1872, this tract of land was reserved and withdrawn from settlement, occupancy, or sale, and dedicated and set apart as a public park or pleasure ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people. It was placed under the exclusive control of the Secretary of the Interior, who was authorized to make such regulations as would provide for the preservation from injury or spoliation of all timber, mineral deposits, natural curiosities or wonders, within the park, and their retention in their natural condition. It was also left discretionary with the Secretary to grant leases for building purposes, for terms not exceeding ten years, of small parcels of ground, at such places in the park as may require the erection of buildings for the accommodation of visitors, the money derived from said leases to be used in the management of the park, and in the construction of roads and bridle-paths within its limits.

Very little has been done toward carrying out the provisions of the act referred to. No appropriation has been made for the pay of a superintendent or the survey of the park, and no revenues have been received, nor have any leases been granted by the department.

Without the necessary appropriation by Congress very little can be done toward making this land of wonders, what it deserves to be on account of its natural formation, one of the most attractive public parks in the world.

Your petitioner, under instruction of the honorable the Secretary of the Interior, proceeded to make up his report for publication, which, when prepared for the year 1877, was published; a detailed account of the operations of your petitioner as superintendent of the Yellowstone National Park is given, it being the first superintendent's report ever thus published, which is also embraced in the honorable Secretary's report, on page 837, for the year 1877.

During the arduous and responsible duties of your petitioner, while on horseback or on foot, in the snow-girt park, or on the desert plains around it, the dangerous descent in a skiff of a rapid and nearly unknown river, an aggregate distance of fully three thousand miles through regions infested with hostile savages, by whom several of his comrades were killed and various articles of his own outfit captured, your petitioner furnished his own outfit, consisting of provisions of all kinds, fire-arms, ammunition, saddle and pack animals, tools, and all necessary supplies, skiffs and such things as were needed in his undertaking—as forage, assistants, guides, transpor-

tation, and innumerable articles necessary to carry out his commission and perform the duties incumbent upon him.

From the 18th day of April, 1877, to the 30th day of June, 1878, a period of one year, two (2) months and thirteen (13) days, your petitioner was on continuous duty, and has never for his services or for money advanced, received one dollar in money, transportation (except transportation from Saint Paul to Bismarck and return), supplies, or other assistance or remuneration whatever, nor for continuous and costly medical treatment for the injury to his neck and spine, received at Tower Falls, while in the line of his official duty, and from the effects of which he never has, and probably never will recover.

In conclusion your petitioner will only add that from misfortunes largely resulting from inattention to his private interests while for nearly five (5) years absent, and wholly engrossed in his official duty as superintendent of the Yellowstone National Park, he finds himself at the close of these duties in financial circumstances imperatively requiring the payment of what he claims his due, in order to provide for his advancing age, and hence most respectfully, but earnestly and confidently, presents this candid statement of facts and sustaining proofs, relying upon Congress for justice in this matter by making an appropriation at an early day to reimburse him for the time and means dedicated to the arduous and responsible efforts which have resulted in securing all the protection and improvement which has ever been afforded to the people's heritage of wonders in the Yellowstone National Park.

The following bill of particulars, hereto appended, shows the amount due your petitioner, \$3,180.41.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

P. W. NORRIS.

Supt. and D. A., Y. N. P.

Statement of salary due, and expenses incurred by P. W. Norris while discharging the duties of superintendent, Yellowstone National Park, for the period from April 18th, 1877, to June 30, 1878, inclusive, as follows, viz:

1877.

May 29.	For salary, superintendent, Yellowstone National Park, from April 18, 1877, to June 30, 1878, inclusive, being one year, two (2) months, and thirteen (13) days, at \$1500 per annum.....	\$1,805 57
May 29.	For railroad fare from Detroit, Mich., to Saint Paul, Minn.....	23 00
May 29.	Sleeping car fare from Detroit, Mich., to Saint Paul, Minn.....	4 00
June 4.	Sleeping car fare from Saint Paul to Bismarck, D. T.....	2 00
June 4.	For charges on extra baggage from Detroit, Mich., to Bismarck, Dak	4 35
June 12.	For meals and lodgings from May 29, to June 12, inclusive, including unavoidable delays at Chicago, Ill., awaiting transportation orders, and in Bismarck, awaiting a steamboat to ascend the Yellowstone River, being 15 days, at \$3 per day	45 00
June 13.	Steamboat fare (steamer General Meade) from Bismarck to Fort Buford, Mont.....	12 12
June 13.	For meals on steamer, 13th to 18th June, inclusive, 6 days, at \$2 per day	12 00
June 19.	For fare on steamboat (steamer Ashland) from Fort Buford to Fort Keogh on Tongue River.....	18 95
June 24.	For meals while on steamer Ashland, from June 19th to 26th, inclusive, 9 days, at \$2.50 per day	22 50
Aug. 15.	For use of saddle and pack animals and outfit from June 29th to August 15th, inclusive, 48 days, at \$4 per day	192 00
Aug. 15.	For subsistence for self, forage for animals, fire-arms and ammunition furnished, and camp outfit during the period from June 29th to August 15th, 1877, inclusive, while engaged in exploring the park, going to, and returning from the park to the skiff near Bottlers, 48 days, at \$5 per day	240 00
Aug. 15.	For hire of guide or assistant with saddle and pack animals, including outfit and subsistence, from June 29 to August 15, 1877, inclusive, 48 days, at \$5 per day	240 00
Aug. 15.	For hire of passage on skiff in running the Yellowstone River from above the "Gate of the Mountains," to near Tongue River.....	50 00
Aug. 15.	For subsistence while descending the river from August 16 to 25, inclusive, 10 days, at \$3 per day	30 00
Aug. 26.	For transportation on steamer Far West, from above Tongue River (Ft. Keogh) to Bismarck, Dak	31 07
Aug. 27.	For meals on steamer Far West, August 26 and 27, 2 days, at \$2 per day	5 00

Aug.	28.	Sleeping car from Bismarck to Saint Paul	\$2 00
Aug.	29.	For railroad and steamboat fare from Saint Paul, Minn., to Detroit, Mich.	27 35
Sep.	3.	For 21 meals, from August 28 to September 3, 1877, inclusive, 7 days, at \$3 per day	21 00
Oct.	2.	For railroad fare from Detroit, Mich., to Washington, D. C., for consultation with the honorable Secretary of the Interior, on business concerning the Yellowstone Park.	16 50
Oct.	2.	Sleeping car fare from Detroit, Mich., to Washington, D. C.	2 00
Oct.	3.	For 6 meals en route, at 75 cents each	4 50
Oct.	6.	For board and lodging in Washington, D. C., October 4 to 6, inclusive, 3 days, at \$1.50 per day	4 50
Oct.	7.	For railroad fare from Washington, D. C., to Detroit, Mich.	16 50
Oct.	7.	For sleeping car fare from Washington, D. C., to Detroit, Mich.	2 00
Oct.	7.	For 6 meals while en route from Washington, D. C., to Detroit, Mich., at 75 cents each.	4 50
Dec.	12.	For railroad fare from Detroit, Mich., to Washington, D. C.	16 50
Dec.	12.	For sleeping car fare from Detroit, Mich., to Washington, D. C.	2 00
Dec.	12.	For 6 meals, at 75 cents each, while en route from Detroit to Washington, D. C.	4 50
1878.			
June	30.	For board and lodging in Washington, D. C., from December 3, 1877, to June 30, 1878, while engaged on duty, 210 days, at \$1.50 per day.	315 00
Total amount			3, 180 41

I certify that the foregoing statement is correct and just; that the detailed items charged herein are taken and verified from memorandum kept by me; that the amounts charged for subsistence were actually paid, and were occasioned by official business or unavoidable delays, and that I have not been furnished with transportation, or money in lieu thereof, for any part of the journeys herein charged for.

P. W. NORRIS.

Sworn and subscribed to before me this 18th of February, 1882.

[SEAL.]

JNO. D. MCCHESENEY,
Notary Public.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D. C., April 13, 1877.

SIR: Under the provisions of the act of Congress approved March 1, 1872, setting apart a tract of land near the headwaters of the Yellowstone River as a public park to be known as the "Yellowstone National Park," and placing the same under the exclusive control of the Secretary of the Interior, you are hereby appointed superintendent of said park to carry out the intention of Congress in regard to the "preservation from injury or spoliation of all timber, mineral deposits, natural curiosities, or wonders within said park."

A copy of the rules and regulations relative to the care and management of the park, under which you will exercise your authority, is herewith inclosed. You will please, after you have entered upon your duties, make such suggestions as to additional rules as your experience may dictate.

As Congress has not provided any appropriation to carry out the purposes of the act of March 1, 1872, relative to the park, you will understand that no obligation is incurred by this department in regard to payment for your services.

All applications for leases of any portion of the park for building purposes will be referred by you to this department, with a statement of your views as to the expediency of granting the same. You will also report from time to time any facts which may become known to you which relate to duties imposed upon this department by the act setting aside said reservation as a public park.

Further instructions as to your duties will hereafter be given.

Very respectfully,

C. SCHURZ,
Secretary.

P. W. NORRIS, Esq.,
Washington, D. C.